

## Message Text

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DEPT PASS AIDAC

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PU  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: (A) STATE 101448, (B) STATE 152675

1. HUMAN RIGHTS FROM THE POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE (THE BUNDLE OF CONSIDERATIONS WHICH DEAL WITH INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS SUCH AS FREEDOM FROM ARBITRARY POLICE POWER, TORTURE, ETC.) ARE NOT A PROBLEM IN GUINEA-BISSAU AND CAPE VERDE. AS DISCUSSED IN LAST YEAR'S ANNUAL REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THESE COUNTRIES, NO PARTICULAR PROBLEM EXISTS ALTHOUGH NEITHER COUNTRY HAS A WESTERN STYLE MULTI-PARTY POLITICAL SYSTEM. BOTH THE GOB AND GOCV ARE FAIRLY RELAXED GOVERNMENTS, STILL OPERATING IN THE FULL FLUSH OF THE PROGRESSIVE ROMANTICISM WHICH CARRIED THEM THROUGH TO INDEPENDENCE. NEVERTHELESS, THE CENTRALIZED CHARACTER OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM AND THE GROWING PRESSURES RESULTING FROM ECONOMIC PROBLEMS COULD RESULT IN HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS OF A POLITICAL NATURE; WE SHALL WATCH OVER DEVELOPMENTS.

2. REFTTEL, HOWEVER, IS DIRECTED MORE TOWARDS CONSIDERATION OF THAT BUNDLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH  
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CONCERN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS FOR THE POOR MAJORITY, I.E. THE NEEDIEST OF THE NEEDY. IT IS WITH RESPECT TO THESE TYPES OF RIGHTS THAT THE USG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM CAN AND SHOULD MOST DIRECTLY ADDRESS ITSELF.

3. AS MENTIONED ABOVE, BOTH THE GOGB AND GOCV ARE

STILL OPERATING IN THE FLUSH OF IDEALISM AND ENTHUSIASM MOBILIZED DURING THE INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE. FROM ITS VERY BEGINNING UNDER AMILCAR CABRAL, THE PAIGC HAS EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION, AND FULL PARTICIPATION OF ALL SOCIAL CLASSES AND GROUPS (IN PARTICULAR THE RURAL POPULATION) IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES HAVE ALSO BEEN, AND CONTINUE TO BE, DOWNPLAYED BY THE PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT AS DIVISIVE CHARACTERISTICS. INSTEAD, THE PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT PERSISTENTLY EMPHASIZE THE BROAD NATURE OF TRUE DEVELOPMENT. THE PARTY'S CONCERN WITH GROUP HUMAN RIGHTS IS EXEMPLIFIED BY ITS HISTORIC CONCERN WITH WOMEN'S RIGHTS, DEMONSTRATED IN THE PARTY REQUIREMENT THAT THE BASIC PARTY LEADERSHIP LEVEL (THE GROUP OR TABANCA) INCLUDE AT A MINIMUM TWO WOMEN OUT OF FIVE MEMBERS.

4. THE GOGB AND GOCV DEVELOPMENT POLICY FORMALLY COMMITTED TO NEEDS OF RURAL POOR, WITH AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, AND HEALTH AS PRIORITIES. THESE PROGRAMS ARE NON-DISCRIMINATORY WITH RESPECT TO REGIONS, ETHNIC OR RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS, AND/OR PREVIOUS POLITICAL ATTITUDES OBTAINED DURING PRE-INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE. BOTH GOVERNMENTS SAY THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF DEVELOPMENT POLICY IS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF CITIZENS, AND THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE VAST MAJORITY IS RURAL, POOR, UNEDUCATED, AND LACKING IN MANAGEMENT EXPERTISE, TRAINING, AND COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS.

5. CAPE VERDE SITUATION IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FROM GUINEA-BISSAU IN THAT CAPE VERDEAN SOCIETY IS MORE HOMOGENOUS, STRUCTURED, CONSERVATIVE, AND BETTER (ALTHOUGH STILL INADEQUATELY) TRAINED AND EDUCATED.

6. OUR JUDGEMENT, THEREFORE, IS THAT BOTH THE GOGB AND THE GOCV HAVE ENUNCIATED AND COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES WHICH COINCIDE WITH THE USG AID POLICY EMPHASIS ON THE EXPANSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

7. HOWEVER, AS WITH MOST GOVERNMENTS, THE KEY QUESTION IS THE COINCIDENCE BETWEEN POLICY AND PRACTICE. IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL IN THESE CASES; THE GOVERNMENTS ARE NEW AND THE CRUNCH POINTS HAVE NOT YET ARRIVED. OUR POLICY DESIGNING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IS TO TAKE THE GOVERNMENTS' STATED PRONOUNCEMENTS AT FACE

VALUE AND TO PROPOSE AND IMPLEMENT SPECIFIC ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WHICH WILL SUPPORT THEIR DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AND THEREBY HELP TO FORESTALL IF NOT AVOID COMPLETELY THE CRUNCH POINTS - WHERE LONG TERM HUMAN NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS CONFLICT WITH SHORT-TERM POLITICAL PERCEPTIONS.

8. IT IS WITH THIS POLICY PERSPECTIVE IN MIND THAT WE HAVE BECOME INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAMS WE HAVE: PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER TRAINING, ARTESANAL FISHING, AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION IN GUINEA-BISSAU; PRIMARY SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT, RURAL AGRICULTURAL WORKS CONSTRUCTION, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WATER AND POWER FACILITIES IN CAPE VERDE. ALL OF THESE PROJECTS ARE CONCERNED WITH THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS AS WELL AS THE FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE RURAL POOR AND, POSSIBLY MORE IMPORTANT, THEIR CHILDREN. ALL OF THESE PROJECTS ARE HIGH PRIORITY IN THE EYES OF THE INDIVIDUAL RURAL COMMUNITIES WHO ARE THE DIRECT BENEFICIARIES. FOR INSTANCE, OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL PROJECT TO DATE IN GUINEA-BISSAU, THE CONTUBOEL RICE IRRIGATION SCHEME, BEGAN AS A LOCAL INITIATIVE SELF-HELP PROJECT AND IS EXPANDING YEARLY IN AN ORGANIC FASHION WITH THE INTEREST AND DESIRE OF THE FRAMERS THEMSELVES AS THE MOTIVE FORCE.

9. IN SUM, AT LEAST AT THIS EARLY STAGE OF OUR INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN GUINEA-BISSAU AND CAPE VERDE, THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS OUTLINED IN REFTEL ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF OUR PLANNING. AS WE MOVE FURTHER INTO IMPLEMENTATION, HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE EVALUATION PROCESS. IN FACT, OUR PROGRAMS WILL NOT BE A SUCCESS UNLESS THEY RESULT IN PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHTS IN THESE TWO COUNTIRES.  
MARKS

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